



# REPI

## READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS PROJECTS OVERVIEW

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**The Department of Defense's (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program protects the Nation's military readiness, enhances relationships with communities, preserves the environment, and improves military installation and community resilience to climate change.**

Under section 2684a of Title 10, United States Code, and other complementary authorities, the REPI program funds cost-sharing partnerships for the military with state and local governments and private conservation organizations. These partnerships obtain easements or other interests in land from willing sellers, or promote natural resource management and military installation resilience to preserve critical areas, resources and natural infrastructure near our military installations.

Since program inception, REPI encroachment management (hereinafter referred to as "REPI projects") have protected **over 757,000 acres of land in 115 locations in 35 states and territories**. Overseen by the Office of the Secretary of Defense and implemented by the military Services, these projects help to preserve vital missions at key installations.

Congress has raised REPI's original funding from \$12.5 million (FY 2005) to \$105 million (FY 2021). Thus far, for completed transactions, DoD's over \$1.08 billion investment in the program has attracted over 975 million in partner contributions. With their ability to leverage other funding, REPI projects have proven to be cost-effective tools for promoting installation resilience and protecting mission capabilities that are at risk.

### WHY THE NEED FOR REPI PROJECTS?

DoD's ability to conduct realistic live-fire training and weapons system testing is vital to preparing warfighters and their equipment for real-world combat. However, these military activities are often incompatible with civilian land uses and can be threatened by the effects of climate change.

For example, lighting from nearby development can reduce the effectiveness of night vision training, while that same training causes noise, dust, and vibrations that impact neighbors. Also, DoD installations are often the last islands of protected open space for threatened and endangered species.

REPI projects protect open and natural spaces that buffer installations to avoid some of these land use conflicts, provide habitat for wildlife, and enhance installation resilience to the effects of climate change. They also help sustain installation capabilities and avoid more expensive alternatives, such as the need for training workarounds or mission relocation.

Through REPI projects, DoD leverages its funds with outside organizations also interested in preserving land and natural resources. The lands protected through this cost-sharing approach allow the landowner — be it a private landowner or a partner from a non-federal agency or conservation organization — to maintain ownership of the land.

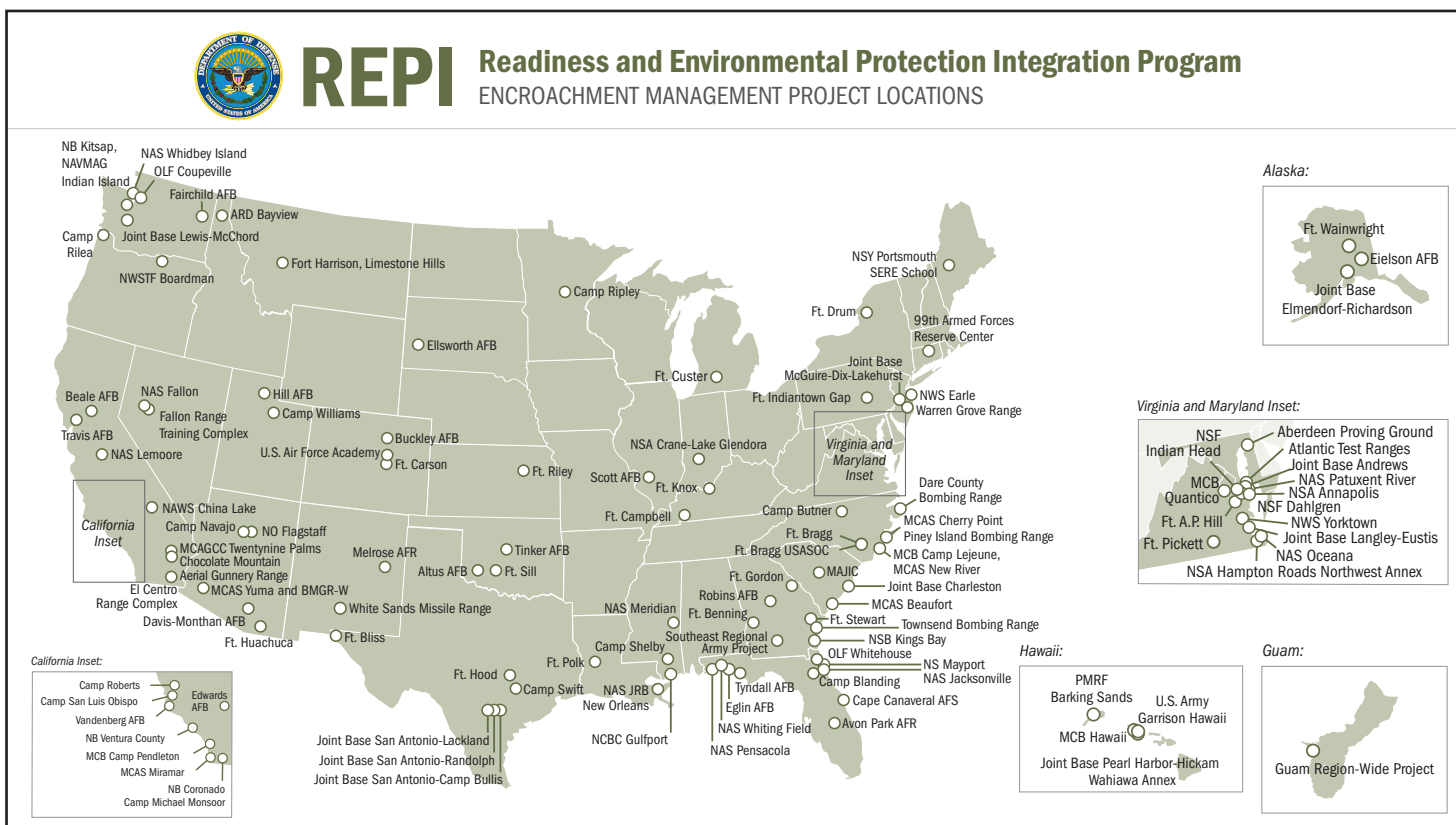
These protected lands are not owned by the military or used for military training or testing. For the military, they serve as compatible neighboring lands, can reduce on-base habitat restriction requirements by protecting additional off-base species habitat, and can protect installations from severe weather events such as coastal flooding and wildfires. For the partner, the protected lands advance their missions in a host of ways, including as described below.

### DELIVERING MULTIPLE BENEFITS

REPI projects deliver multiple benefits and demonstrate the power of innovative collaboration in the following ways:

- **Enhanced military readiness** by limiting incompatible development near military installations
- **Protected valuable habitat** and provided opportunities for endangered species recovery
- **Improved military installation resilience** to climate change by protecting, restoring, and supporting off-base natural infrastructure
- **Preserved open space**, including working farms and forestland, that add value to surrounding communities
- **Strengthened military-community relationships** and forged partnerships with new allies
- **Spurred collaboration** with other federal land conservation programs and landscape-scale initiatives

## REPI PROJECTS AROUND THE COUNTRY



The map above shows REPI projects through FY 2019 at 109 locations in 33 states across the country.

### REQUISITES OF A REPI PROJECT

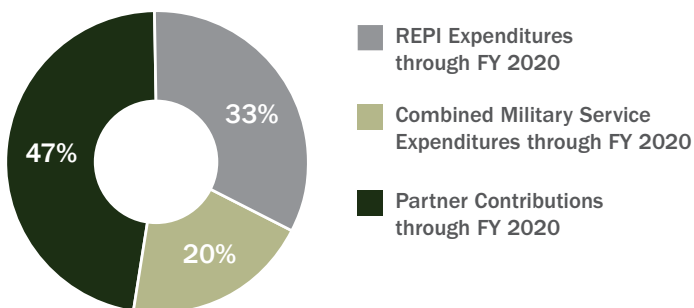
- Agreement between the military and eligible entity — State or local government or private conservation organization
- Military and partner share the cost for partner to acquire a land interest or easement to protect compatible land, or to share in the cost of habitat preservation or natural infrastructure investments to enhance installation resilience.
- Landowner participation in all partnerships is voluntary
- Protected land ensures compatible land use, habitat preservation, or enhanced installation resilience



**Example Partnership:** Located in Monmouth County, New Jersey, Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle is tasked with providing ordnance for all Atlantic Fleet Carrier and Expeditionary Strike Groups. After Hurricane Sandy struck the New Jersey coastline in 2012, NWS Earle and the surrounding

community sustained catastrophic damage that cost roughly \$50 million to repair. To prevent future damage from storm surges and protect the community's drinking water sources, NWS Earle is leveraging the expanded 10 U.S.C. § 2684a authority to fund an intergovernmental support agreement under 10 U.S.C. § 2679 with Monmouth County and the State of New Jersey. The agreement and REPI funding support beach nourishment, living shoreline establishment, storm surge protection, stormwater management and storage capacity enhancement, and wildfire mitigation.

### REPI PROGRAM LEVERAGES PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS



Partner funds have covered almost half of the total costs to date. REPI partners and contributors have included:

- The Nature Conservancy
- The Conservation Fund
- The Environmental Resources Network
- Local and regional land trusts
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (including Forest Service; Natural Resources Conservation Service)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (including Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program)
- State and local governments